



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...OCTOBER 10, 2016

GFC ISSUES OUTDOOR BURNING GUIDANCE IN WAKE OF HURRICANE MATTHEW

Hurricane Matthew left behind vast amounts of tree and other vegetation debris, which many Georgians are beginning to prepare to clean. The Georgia Forestry Commission reminds residents that an open burning permit is required for all types of outdoor burning, including hand-piled natural vegetation piles.

Burning permits were suspended prior to Hurricane Matthew arriving on the Georgia coast and are currently not being issued. GFC has evaluated the local conditions affected by the hurricane and has determined that burning may resume in some locations beginning October 13, 2016, but only for some types of burning. Local GFC professionals will determine whether to issue permits each day based on local weather conditions and the availability of wildland firefighting resources in each county.

"If burning permits are allowed in your area, we urge you to be mindful of your smoke," says Frank Sorrells, GFC's chief of forest protection. "Keep burn piles small and manageable, keep water and hand tools like shovels and rakes nearby to help control your fire, and never leave your fire unattended."

Permits are easy to get for hand-piled natural vegetation (commonly known as yard debris) by using GFC's online burn permitting system (www.gatrees.org), or by using our automated telephone permitting system (1.877.OK2.BURN). Both automated systems will alert you if burning permits remain restricted in your area. For other types of burning permits, including land clearing and acreage burning, call your local GFC office for permit information and status.

For more information on obtaining burning permits and safe burning practices, visit the Georgia Forestry Commission's website at www.gatrees.org.